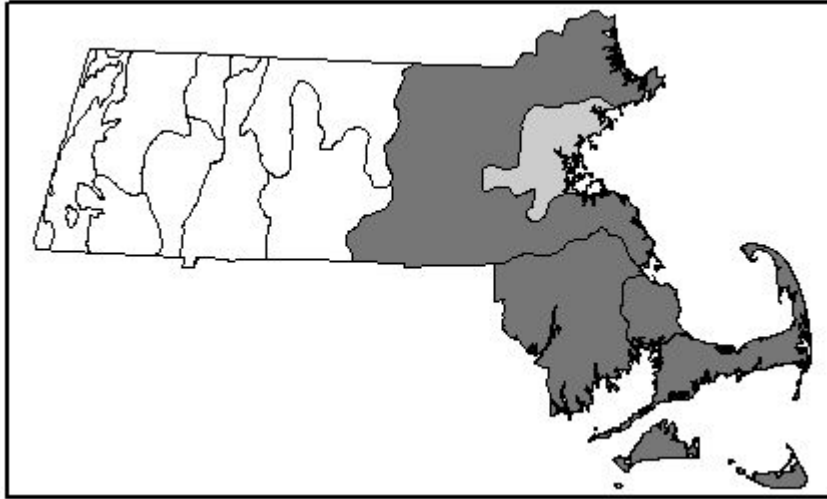


**Community Name:** MARITIME JUNIPER WOODLAND / SHRUBLAND

**Community Code:** CT1A2A1100

**SRANK:** S1



**Concept:** Predominantly evergreen woodland / shrubland within the coastal salt spray zone. The trees tend to be short (*less than 5 m* (about 15 feet)) and scattered. Tops of trees and shrubs are sculpted by winds and salt spray.

**Environmental Setting:** Maritime communities occur along the coast within the area of direct influence of the ocean and salt spray, but not in areas flooded by salt water. They are usually somewhat protected from direct spray by crests of dunes. Juniper dominated maritime communities tend to occur on sand of interdunal areas, backs of dunes, and exposed bluffs, and also on salt marsh borders, and, to a lesser extent, on rocky headlands.

**Vegetation Description:** Trees are usually short relative to interior forests. The Maritime Juniper Woodland / Shrubland community occurs as part of continua of sparse shrubland to forest, and deciduous to evergreen dominants, in areas of continuous changes of levels of salt spray and substrate types. Virginia juniper, also called red cedar (*Juniperus virginiana*) dominates but occurs in variable, usually low, densities in association with scattered trees and shrubs typical of the surrounding forest such as Pitch pine (*Pinus rigida*), various oaks (*Quercus* spp.), American holly (*Ilex opaca*), black cherry (*Prunus serotina*), red maple (*Acer rubrum*), bayberry (*Myrica pensylvanica*) and winged sumac (*Rhus copallinum*). The herbaceous layer is highly variable, with little blue stem grass (*Schizachyrium scoparium*), beach grass (*Ammophila breviligulata*), and sedges, often with scattered beach heather (*Hudsonia tomentosa*). Microtopography and local conditions strongly influence the species assemblage.

**Associations:**

**Habitat Values for Associated Fauna:** There are no animal species known to be restricted to maritime woodlands. Animal species are those of typical coastal oak areas such as the birds Rufous-sided Towhees (*Pipilo erythrophthalmus*), Gray Catbirds (*Dumetella carolinensis*), Common Yellowthroats (*Geothlypis trichas*), Ovenbird (*Seiurus aurocapillus*) and Black-and-white Warbler (*Mniotilta varia*). Small mammals such as meadow voles (*Microtus pennsylvanicus*), white footed mice (*Peromyscus leucopus*), and gray squirrels (*Sciurus carolinensis*) are common in Massachusetts' forests. Moths, butterflies, and other insects of the southeastern oak and oak-pine forest occur in maritime forests. Generally, in more salt influenced environments, fewer animals will be expected. As in all communities on peninsulas such as Cape Cod, or on islands, the more remote occurrences have fewer species than those closer to the mainland sources.

**Associated Rare Plants:**

NONE KNOWN

Natural Heritage & Endangered Species Program, Massachusetts Division of Fisheries & Wildlife

**Associated Rare Animals:**

TERRAPENE CAROLINA

EASTERN BOX TURTLE

SC

**Examples with  
Public Access:**

Sandy Neck, Barnstable; Belle Isle Marsh, Revere.

**Threats:**

Exotics, including Asiatic bittersweet (*Celastrus orbiculata*), dune stabilization, roads through the dunes.

**Management Needs:**

Exotic control on the best examples.

**Synonyms**

**USNVC/TNC:**

Includes: Juniperus virginiana Woodland Alliance -- Juniperus virginiana var. virginiana / Myrica pensylvanica Woodland [CEGL006212].

**MA (old name):**

SNE Maritime Forest on Dunes/Maritime Juniper Forest.

**ME:**

Includes: part of Sand dune community.

**NH:**

1998 - Maritime Dune Forest/Woodland.

**VT:**

Not applicable.

**NY:**

Includes: Maritime red cedar forest; includes parts of Successional maritime forest.

**CT:**

Within the Pinus rigida - Quercus stellata Woodlands.

**RI:**

Within the Pitch Pine - Oak Forest and Oak - Pine Forest. And part of Maritime Shrubland.

**Weatherbee:**

Not applicable.

**Author:**

P. Swain

**Date:**

1/26/99